TENNESSEE EQIP FISCAL YEAR 2008 PROJECTED TIMELINE SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

October 15:

Stakeholder Input and Local Work Group (LWG) meetings are held to develop EQIP conservation practice lists. LWGs develop Local Issue questions (not to exceed 20 questions) for the County Base Ranking Tool.

Sub-committees of the State Technical Committee have conducted meetings to develop State Issue questions for remaining Ranking Tools (Maximum of 10 questions per Ranking Tool.).

October 5:

Defer any existing FY 2007 unfunded EQIP applications (Eligible or Preapproved status).

October 15:

LWGs must submit their completed spread sheets (Spread sheet format will be provided.) that contain the selected conservation practices and list of Local Issue questions. Eligible applications can be ranked in any fund code as soon as ranking is finalized.

October 19:

LWGs' spread sheets will be posted, by county, on the Tennessee Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP web site.

November 1:

<u>EQIP application cut off.</u> A high priority ranking threshold score will be set for each state wide funding pool. Applications received by the cutoff date with a high priority will be funded as soon as funds are available and will not have to wait until all applications in a fund code are ranked.

December 31:

Ranking period ends. Ranking of applications should start as soon as an applicant is determined eligible.

January 2: Funding of EQIP applications continues

Tennessee's goal is to fund as many applications as possible, as fast as possible, to develop and implement contracts that contain spring seeding operations.